

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 ACDA-05 BIB-01

ISO-00 DODE-00 /083 W

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R 061857Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5617

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MPOLM NATO

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEO)

ASSEMBLY, SECOND SESSION, DECEMBER 3-6

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SUMMARY. PARIS MEETING OF WEU ASSEMBLY PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. ALTHOUGH DELEGATES EXPRESSED THEIR WISH TO REINFORCE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY BY A "BUY EUROPEAN, IF POSSIBLE" POLICY, A REPORT WHICH QUESTIONED THE US COMMITMENT TO DEFEND EUROPE WAS HARSHLY RECEIVED AND SENT BACK TO COMMITTEE. ASSEMBLY SESSION RECEIVED LITTLE PRESS COVERAGE IN PARIS, WHICH WAS OCCUPIED WITH THE UPCOMING EC SUMMIT CONFERENCE. MEETING SUGGESTS THAT MOST EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS CONTINUE TO VIEW EUROPE'S DEFENSE IN FRAMEWORK OF NATO AND IN COOPERATION WITH US. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SESSION'S MOST SPIRITED DEBATE TURNED AROUND THE REPORT OF FRANCE'S PIERRE-CHARLES KRIEG (UDR), WHICH RECOMMENDED THAT THE WEU COUNCIL "PROPOSE THAT A CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATES OR OF GOVERNMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BE HELD FORTHWITH TO STUDY THE REQUIREMENTS OF A EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY". KRIEG IS A STAUNCH GAULLIST AND SUSPICIOUS OF THE US. CONTROVERSY OVER THIS YEAR'S REPORT CENTERED NOT ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN DEFENSE SUMMIT BUT ON THE STRIDENT ANTI-AMERICAN LANGUAGE IN THE ACCOMPANYING EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM. KRIEG ARGUED THAT THE EUROPEAN NATO STATES HAD SURRENDERED EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THEIR FORCES TO THE US, AND THAT THEY RISKED BEING DRAGGED INTO WAR BECAUSE OF THE US INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF EUROPE. HE CONCLUDED THAT WHILE THE ALLIANCE REMAINS USEFUL, "NATO CAN HARDLY BE CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE BASIS FOR A EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY . . . IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK OUT A EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY SEPARATE FROM THAT OF THE UNITED STATES, EVEN IF IT HAS TO BE CLOSELY LINKED."

2. KRIEG'S REPORT WAS BRISKLY ATTACKED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS WHO OBJECTED TO ITS STRIDENT ANTI-AMERICAN TONE. KRIEG, SAID ONE, "CONFUSED FRANCE WITH THE COMMON MARKET". A DUTCH DELEGATE CALLED IT A FRENCH REPORT, NOT AN INTERNATIONAL ONE, AND ADDED THAT FRANCE CLAIMS LEADERSHIP, "EVEN WHEN IT IS ALONE IN ITS OPINION".

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BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, THE REPORT WAS SENT BACK TO COMMITTEE, THE ONLY SUBMITTED REPORT TO FAIL OF ADOPTION THIS SESSION.

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R 061857Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5618

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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3. AMONG THE ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS WAS ONE OFFERED
BY JULIAN CRITCHLEY (UK), CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY'S
COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE QUESTIONS AND ARMAMENTS, WHICH
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CALLED FOR THE GOOD OFFICES OF NATO AND THE EC TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL PARTIES IN THE CYPRUS DISPUTE. A REPORT BY KENNETH WARREN (UK), RECOMMENDED THAT WEU MEMBER STATES GIVE PREFERENCE WHEN "REASONABLE AND POSSIBLE" TO PROCUREMENT OF EUROPEAN-MADE PRODUCTS, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE AN AUTONOMOUS EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL FULLY CAPABLE OF COMPETING IN WORLD MARKETS. THE WARREN REPORT WENT ON TO CALL FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WEU MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND THE US FOR "EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY" IN CIVIL AND MILITARY AEROSPACE JOBS AND RELIEVE BALANCE OF PAYMENT DEFICITS. AFTER A SHORT DEBATE WHICH CENTERED ON THE F-104 REPLACEMENT COMPETITION, THE WARREN RECOMMENDATIONS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. SEVERAL MINISTERS ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING BERNARD DESTREMAU, FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO REAFFIRMED FRANCE'S INTENTION NOT TO REJOIN THE NATO MILITARY COMMAND (PARIS 29183). BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RANAAT VAN ELSLANDE' CALLED UPON THE WEU ASSEMBLY TO URGE MEMBER STATES TOWARD STANDARDIZATION OF ARMAMENTS AS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD A COMMON EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY. DUTCH MINISTER OF DEFENSE HENK VREDELING SECONDED VAN ELSLANDE'S PROPOSAL AND ADDED THAT SUCH A COMMON EUROPEAN DEFENSE COULD BE SERVED BY INCREASED COOPERATION ON MILITARY LOGISTICS.

5. COPIES OF WEU REPORTS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO EUR/RPM.

6. COMMENT. WEU ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE CHOSEN BY THEIR NATIONAL LEGISLATURES, AND ASSEMBLY DEBATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE POLICIES OF WEU MEMBER STATES. NEVERTHELESS, THE ASSEMBLY DOES PROVIDE ONE MEASURE OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY SENTIMENT ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS. THE RECORD OF THIS MOST RECENT ASSEMBLY MEETING SUGGESTS THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF EUROPEAN LEGISLATORS ARE CONTINUING TO SEEK GREATER EUROPEAN COOPERATION -- BUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND NOT IN CONFRONTATION WITH THE US.
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